

Press Release



John Hoeven, Governor
Douglass A. Prchal, Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

Phone 701-328-5357
Fax 701-328-5363

E-mail parkrec@state.nd.us
www.NDparks.com

For Immediate Release, September 2, 2005

For more information, contact John Kwapinski, 701-973-4331

Celebrate the Fall Harvest at Ft. Ransom State Park's Sodbuster Days

FORT RANSOM, N.D.—Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11, is the place to be for an old-fashioned fall harvest with demonstrations of haying with horses, threshing and harvesting. The 22nd annual event also features an old-time fiddle contest, pie auction and plenty of great food.

Held at Fort Ransom State Park in southeastern North Dakota, Sodbuster Days celebrates North Dakota's homesteading and ethnic heritage. Sponsored by the volunteer Fort Ransom Sodbusters Association, Sodbuster Days includes horse-drawn fieldwork, pioneer homemaking skills and ladies' crafts, ethnic food, music and much more. Field demonstrations are held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday; and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday.

Over 20 teams of Belgian and Percheron work horses will be used to demonstrate farm work, or hitched to "people movers" for wagon rides. Visitors will also see an operating blacksmith shop, pedal-powered woodworking, gas-powered engines and horse-powered threshing.

Ladies' demonstrations include cooking over an open fire and preparing and serving ethnic, farm-style foods such as corn muffins and hand-churned butter, sauerkraut, lefse, rommegrot and ice cream, with plenty of samples available to visitors. There will also be demonstrations of tatting, rug weaving, Brazilian embroidery, quilting and sewing on a treadle sewing machine; along with pottery being thrown by wheel.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be on hand with their Lewis and Clark interactive display, "Discover the Corps, with the Corps." Also on display will be stationary farm and church exhibits.

Supervised children's activities for youngsters from pre-school to age 12 will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with games, crafts and prizes. A watermelon seed-spitting contest is set for 3 p.m. both days.

Food and beverages will be available throughout the weekend. On Saturday evening, an old fashioned pork dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Supper tickets are \$7.50 each for adults, \$3.50 for children 6-12, and pre-schoolers free. On Sunday, breakfast is scheduled from 7-9:30 a.m.

back

Play in our backyard!

Special activities on Saturday are an old-time fiddle contest, pie auction, silent quilt auction, and an evening music jam session beginning at 8 p.m. On Sunday, an interdenominational church service, conducted by Pastor Dave Carlson, will be held at 9 a.m. Also on Sunday, everyone is welcome to participate or watch the Sodbusters Days parade, which starts at 10:30 a.m. On Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., a turn-of-the-century style show will take place at the log cabin, with music by Dane and Charlie Kreidelcamp.

Cost to attend Sodbuster Days is \$5/person, with children 12 and under admitted free. The regular state park entrance fee will be waived for day use visitors. For those wishing to spend the weekend, the park offers camping with electrical hookups, showers, plenty of picnicking areas and canoe rentals. Campsite reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the toll-free reservation line, 1-800-807-4723.

The park is located 35 miles south of Valley City, 18 miles northwest of Lisbon and two miles north of the town of Fort Ransom, along the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway. For more information, call the park at (701) 973-4331.